

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express sincere appreciation for a lifetime of dedicated public service provided by the late William Gary Loftin, former Clerk of Court for Caddo Parish, and to celebrate the rich legacy of accomplishments that he leaves to the community of Shreveport and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is with great admiration that the late Gary Loftin is remembered as an extraordinary gentleman, father, husband, and public servant who did all things well; and

WHEREAS, Gary Loftin was a man of deep and abiding faith, who possessed a keen sense of fairness, a penchant for hard work, and an unyielding dedication to his duties as an officer for the court; and

WHEREAS, Gary was first employed as a deputy clerk in 1975, advanced to chief deputy clerk, and in 2000 was elected as Caddo Parish Clerk of Court, running unopposed for re-election until his retirement in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the life of Gary Loftin was one of trusted public service in numerous capacities; he served in the office of clerk of court for forty-one years, as a member of both the Caddo Parish Board of Election Supervisors and the Jury Commission for the First Judicial District Court; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, he was recognized for his outstanding service to the legal community by the Shreveport Bar Association with receipt of the Liberty Bell Award; and

WHEREAS, Gary served in the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association as a long-standing member, as president of the association, as chairman of its Supplemental Board, and as president of the Board of Trustees of the Clerks of Court Retirement System;

and

WHEREAS, born on May 18, 1953, Gary was a lifelong resident of Shreveport who graduated from Woodlawn High School and attained a degree from Louisiana State University-Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, he was married for forty-six years to the love of his life, Marianne Dean Loftin, whose union was blessed with three daughters and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Gary was a compassionate individual, a man of unfaltering faith, and a longtime parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Shreveport where he served diligently on several church boards; and

WHEREAS, Gary Loftin had an immeasurable capacity for helping others which he generously contributed to the Holy Angels Residential Facility, a residential and training campus for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, known by the staff and residents as "Daddy of Holy Angels", Gary dedicated much of this time and talent to the advancement of its administrative operations by serving on the board of directors, as board president from 2011-2016, as a member of the Executive Board, the Spiritual Care Committee, the Chapel Building Committee, and the Capital Campaign as a family chairman; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to Holy Angels was boundless and the attention and affection Gary expressed for those around him was a reflection of his great heart, his capacity for love, and his altruistic way of living with empathy for all God's children; and

WHEREAS, Gary found immense joy in the company of family and friends, whether boating and fishing on Lake Bistineau or any other activity that brought loved ones closer to his side, Gary was at peace with his Lord and his conscience and was content in his life; and

WHEREAS, upon his death on July 15, 2019, the Ark-La-Tex region and the state of Louisiana lost a unique individual who has left an indelible mark upon the Shreveport community that had benefitted from the superb execution of his parochial duties and upon the lives of those he knew and loved; and

WHEREAS, William Gary Loftin unselfishly dedicated his life to public service and the betterment of his fellow man.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere appreciation for the lifetime of public service provided by the late William Gary Loftin, former Clerk of Court for Caddo Parish and to hereby note the rich and enduring legacy that he leaves to the community of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Marianne Dean Loftin.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES